

# Accreditation of Adult Education Programs

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## Introduction:

Adult education students are afforded educational opportunities empowering them to become self-sufficient, with the basic academic skills necessary for future employment and personal successes. Through program intervention the adult learner will improve their literacy skills obtaining the knowledge and fulfilling the requirements necessary to complete an adult education secondary diploma.

Pursuing a post secondary degree through a community college or other institution of higher learning could be an outcome reflective of the student's desire for further education. Having an adult education secondary diploma issued by an accredited secondary school is essential to ensure admission and future successes.

## Purpose:

Ensuring the adult education student the same opportunities for post-secondary opportunities and economic stability afforded a traditional K-12 high school graduate by the issuing an adult education secondary diploma from an accredited program.

## Local Program Responsibilities:

- All adult education programs receiving state legislative funding, issuing adult education academic credit and adult education secondary diplomas are to be actively engaged in the Northwest Accreditation process by July 1, 2010 maintaining accreditation for the period of time as state legislative funding is granted to the local program.
- Accreditation is recognized by one of the following methods:
  1. Adult education program is administered “under the umbrella” of an alternative high school as a special purpose program that is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.
  2. Adult education program is a “stand-alone” program that is accredited as special purpose program by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.
  3. Adult education program is administered as a “department” of a high school of the local school district that is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.
- All adult education diplomas issued will read “Adult Education Secondary Diploma”.

Complete accreditation information may be obtained at the USOE website.

How does a school become accredited?

**Directory of Accredited Schools**

- [Utah Schools](#)
- [Northwest Schools](#)

Utah Board Rules regarding Accreditation

## Utah School Accreditation..

**Northwest Annual Report**

**What does Accreditation mean?**

- The purpose of Accreditation is to ensure excellence in education by holding schools accountable to rigorous standards and a process of continuous improvement.
- In the State of Utah, by law all public schools, granting high school credit, are required to be accredited. Accreditation ensures that the credits/diploma a student earns is the result of quality educational experience. Schools that are not accredited run the risk of not having their credits or diplomas accepted by other schools, colleges, or the military.
- Any school accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body has demonstrated a commitment to rigorous standards and a process of continuous improvement.

**New NAAS Revised Standards**

There are new revised standards for Northwest Association of Accredited Schools. These standards will be piloted for the 2006-2007 school year. [View the New Standards - PDF](#)

**Who needs to be accredited?**

- All Utah secondary public schools must be accredited.
- High schools must be accredited through the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS).
- Junior High or Middle schools with 9th grades are accredited by the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) using NAAS standards.
- Junior Highs, Middle and Elementary schools may seek Northwest accreditation if they desire.
- Private and parochial schools that issue high school credit and/or diplomas should be accredited.

**For more information visit:**

- [Northwest Association of Accredited Schools Policies](#)